

## Rehearsal plan surprise check

Before you move on to preparing a rehearsal script, do your first surprise check. That's where something pops up and says, 'surprise,' and you have to make a change.

For example: Somewhere in the late February to mid March time frame local schools take a break for a week.

How is that going to impact your rehearsal schedule? Are you planning to rehearse during that time?

If so, you must make sure you point that out to everyone who is auditioning and be prepared to accept the fact that some people have already made plans for being out of town during that time.

Do you want to say, "thanks but no thanks," ahead of time to anyone who falls into that category and lose potential talent or will you try to remain flexible to maximize your talent base? Whatever you decide, it's another thing to add to your audition notice.

Check about the use of the performance space for the last weeks before opening, in this case, the last two weeks of March. You might assume that you have first call on the space but it's always good to check.

Chances are there will be a hitch in your perfect plan and you'll have to make some sort of adjustment. For now let's say you've checked everything, made the appropriate decisions, and have a plan that takes you from the first rehearsal until opening night. Good job.

Once you've put your rehearsal script together, you make a unit breakdown. This means you can:

- Prepare for the auditions.
- Prepare for design meetings.
- Create a rehearsal schedule.